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Grand Teton National Park News Release

Cattle Drive to Cause Temporary Traffic Delay Near Moran Junction in Grand Teton National Park

Grand Teton National Park Superintendent Mary Gibson Scott announced today that motorists will experience a temporary travel delay between the hours of 6:30 to 9 a.m. on Saturday morning, June 10, along Highway 26/89/191 from Moran Junction to the Elk Ranch area, one mile south of the junction. The temporary delay will allow for the safe movement of cattle from the Pinto Ranch of Buffalo Valley to the Elk Ranch pastures, south of Moran Junction and the Buffalo Fork River. Park rangers will provide traffic control during the cattle drive.

Pinto Ranch wranglers will drive a herd of about 250 cattle westward from the ranch using a right of way along Highway 26/287. When the cattle drive reaches Moran Junction, the animals will need to use the roadway to cross the Buffalo Fork bridge. At this point, motorists will likely experience a delay of 30 - 40 minutes while cattle clear both the bridge itself and a swampy area just south of the bridge.

To avoid the temporary road delay during the cattle drive, local residents and park visitors may choose to travel an alternate route through Grand Teton National Park using the Teton Park Road between Moose Junction and Jackson Lake Junction. Every effort will be made to minimize the time required for this travel delay, and to reduce any inconvenience to motorists using Highway 26/89/191 to access Moran Junction during the Saturday morning cattle drive.

Grand Teton National Park officials requested that the Pinto Ranch shift their cattle this year from their historic Pacific Creek grazing allotment north of Moran to the Elk Ranch pastures in order to minimize potential conflicts with wolves that are in the vicinity of the Pacific Creek drainage.

The Elk Ranch pastures have historically been used for grazing as part of a compromise agreement under the 1950 Grand Teton National Park enabling legislation.

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